

## **Intensive Assistance Process**

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Accreditation Division works with schools and districts to resolve deviation issues without further actions. Schools that have serious and/or continuing deviations are in Deficiency status and are expected to develop and implement a corrective plan to remedy the deviations which resulted in the Deficiency status. Schools failing to implement the corrective plan are placed in Intensive Assistance. This process represents the final effort to resolve the school's significant accreditation issues. The school's lack of response to Intensive Assistance can result in a recommendation from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Board of Public Education (BPE) to move the school to Non-Accreditation status. Section 20-9-344, MCA, gives the BPE the authority to withhold distribution of state equalization aid when the district fails to submit required reports or maintain accredited status. Administrative Rules of Montana 10.67.102 and 10.67.103 establish the procedures and hearing schedules as adopted by the BPE.

### **STEP 1**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends and BPE places school(s) in Intensive Assistance. OPI staff conducts an on-site visit with the local Superintendent and Board Chair. OPI assists with development of a corrective plan. If the meeting results in a corrective plan, the Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the BPE approve or disapprove the plan.

- If the plan is approved the school remains in Intensive Assistance until the corrective plan is fully implemented within the designated timeline.
- If there is no plan, or the plan is not approved by the BPE, the Chair of the Board of Trustees and local superintendents are required to appear before the BPE. In addition, the local superintendent is required to inform district parents of the required appearance. The BPE moves the school(s) to STEP 2 of the Intensive Assistance Process.

### **STEP 2**

If meeting with the BPE results in a plan, the State Superintendent will make a recommendation to the BPE to approve or disapprove the plan. If no plan results from the meeting, or the plan is not approved, the BPE will consider placement of the school in Non-Accreditation status. The school will be moved to STEP 3 of the Intensive Assistance Process.

### **STEP 3**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction makes the first motion to the BPE to place the school in Non-Accreditation status effective the following July 1. If the BPE approves the motion, the School Board is notified of its right to appear at a hearing before the BPE.

### **STEP 4**

Following the hearing the BPE takes action on a second consideration of the motion to place the school in Non-Accredited status. BPE takes final action to place the school in Non-Accredited status the following July 1. Section 20-9-344, MCA, gives the BPE the authority to withhold distribution of state equalization aid when the district fails to submit required reports or maintain accredited status.